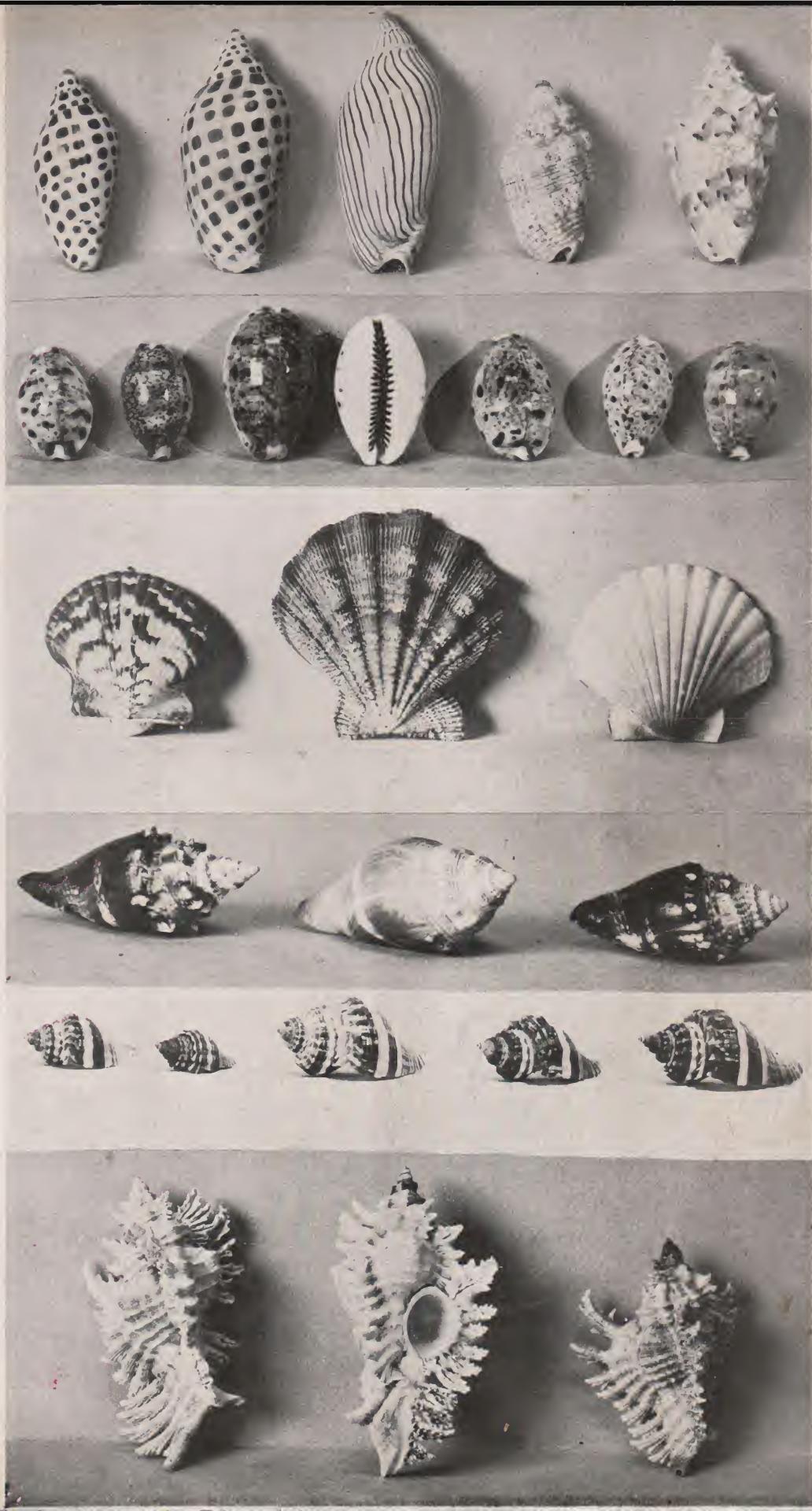


APRIL, 1948

HOBBIESTS

SHELLS
(See Natural History Department)



NUMISMATICS

NUMISMATIC THOUGHTS

By FRANK C. ROSS

The "Badger" Commemorative, 1836-1936

Read your coins. You should not just collect commemorative coins, you should also numismatise them; you should not look upon commemorative as just another coin in your collection, but as another book in your library. There is a wonderful and instructive story behind each of them. Take the Wisconsin Centennial with the date 1836, and with a mining symbol on obverse and a badger on reverse; you immediately conclude that 1836 is the date of statehood, that the mining symbol is a general term, and that the badger is there because of the number of the burrowers in the state, and let it go at that. The 1836 is the year Wisconsin achieved territory-ship, not state-hood. (It became a state in 1848). The ore shown under the miner's pick is pig lead. The badger is a burrowing animal that bores deep holes in the earth for its home. In this instance the arm and pick, and the badger, are not entirely separate entities; they are closely allied, sort of a team. The principal chapter in the story of the Wisconsin Centennial Coin is the one titled Why Is Wisconsin Called The Badger State?

An AP news item, Milwaukee, January 6th:— The sixth graders at the 18th Street school exhibited proudly today a letter acknowledging they found an error in the junior Encyclopedia Britannica. Their teacher, W. B. Wiebeck, explained they'd read in the encyclopedia that Wisconsin was nick-named the Badger state because it had so many badgers. The pupils learned, however, Wiebeck said, that the nick-name derived from the manner in which lead miners of Southwestern Wisconsin used to burrow into the sides of hills.

Excerpts (much condensed) from a letter written in 1879 by Moses M. Strong, a notable Wisconsin pioneer:— Your letter of 5th inst. requesting me to inform you what I know of the term "Badger" as applied to Wisconsin and its inhabitants is received. Whatever I know about it is traditional and may not be entirely correct. The lead mines of Wisconsin (Southwestern) were inhabited for about ten years previous to this time (1835) by a class of adventur-

ers, many of them itinerant. The homes burrowed by these miners in the side of hills were termed "badger holes." The term "Badger" — according to tradition — was first applied to the occupants of these temporary subterranean residences in derision — (as the term "Sucker" was applied to the migratory inhabitants of southern Illinois) — and afterwards to all the inhabitants of the lead-mine region, and by a not unnatural adaptation, has been applied to the people of Wisconsin and to the state itself.

(Thanks to the Wisconsin State Historical Society for its help)

oo

Back Porch Gossip

President Truman's contemplated back porch addition to the White House it is feared will make numismatic upsets. That back porch may be just an incidental in carpentry, but it is a head-ache to the Treasury Department, and an important event in numismatics. Duke Shoop,

Kansas City Star's Washington correspondent, says:— President Truman's insistence on having a "back porch" erected on the White House may play havoc with the currency of the United States. It might well cause the Treasury Department to re-design the country's \$20 bills. The \$20 bills contain the picture of the south portico of the White House, with its stately pillars unobstructed. Now that Mr. Truman has ordered the porch built half way up the pillars, the \$20 bills will be pictorially incorrect. The Treasury has been asked for a ruling as to whether the next issue of \$20 bills will conform to the architectural change in the mansion. The engraving of the south portico on the \$20 bills is very clearly and finely done. One would not have to be an expert to detect the discrepancy if the balcony is included in the next issue of the \$20 bank notes. The idea of Mr. Truman's whim for a back porch is one of the current jokes around Washington, but it is no joking matter with the Treasury department if it has to re-design its currency.

oo

Twenty Years Ago the Hawaiian Sesquicentennial commemorative half dollar was issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Hawaiian Islands by Captain James Cook

in 1778. As Hawaii will very likely soon become the 49th state of the union, this half-dollar is of special interest. Capt. Cook is shown on one side of coin and a native chief on the other. Capt. Cook was slain by the natives, and therein hangs a tale. Blake Clark, author of Hawaii, the 49th State, in an article in the Readers Digest says:— When Queen Liliuokalani (Hawaii) visited Queen Victoria she said to the English Ruler, "I, too, have English blood in my veins — my ancestors ate Captain Cook."

oo

England Sees Green. They are copy-cetting our greenbacks. An English News item says "Britain is going to issue greenbacks. Large prewar stocks of unused green one pound notes will be issued as "new money" through the banks instead of the blue and pinkish brown bills now in circulation. The blues were issued in place of the greens in 1940 when it was first feared the Germans might overrun the country with bad money. They have a metal thread running through them to foil counterfeitors.

oo

Opportunity Knocks. The scheme by a member of Congress to have our paper bills of different colors may have an opportunity to see the plan adopted. Another congressman wants new bills issued to replace the present ones to smoke out foreign hoarders of American dollars. If new money is issued, then, if ever, would be the time to rainbow it with colors. This would add zest to the collecting of paper money.

oo

Confetti. The millions and millions and millions of dollars of worthless Old World paper money printed during and after the War should have a distinguishing name. Its present name of "War Money" is too general, as the term "money" in this instance is more technical than factual. Why not dub it "Confetti."

—

The Robot Cashier. If the present rate continues the familiar expression "money passes from hand to hand" will have to be changed to "from hand to machine". Whether the wear-and-tear to coins is worse with the slot-machine than with over-the-counter is yet to be determined. It is estimated that more than one billion dollars will be spent during 1948 via the slot-machine route. It seems that almost anything from Shoe-shines to coffee with or without cream and sugar may now be procured through these robot merchants.

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1946 Booker T. Washington PDS Set. Select Unc.....	4.75
1946 Booker T. Washington PDS Set. Coins show only few tiny mint scratches—a Set that will please most collectors. Postpaid.....	3.50
Morgan Dollars, P. O. S., CC mixed. Ten (10) different dates, all Unc. A real bargain.....	18.50
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1917 \$1 Legal Tender, Small Red Seal.....	3.00
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1935	4.50	5.50	10.50	20.00	1945	1.80	2.00
1936	4.00	11.50	6.00	20.00	1946	1.55	1.85
1937	3.75	4.25	7.50	14.50	1947	1.50	1.65
1938	3.50	8.50	3.00	14.00	1947 Cent	.05	.05
1939	3.50	5.50	7.50	16.00	1947 Nickel	.10	.15
1940	3.00	2.50	3.00	8.00	1947 Dime	.15	.15
1941	2.50	2.75	3.00	7.50	1947 Quarter	.45	.50
1942	2.50	3.50	3.00	8.50	1947 Half Dollar	.85	.85
1943	2.00	2.25	3.00	6.75	Complete set	1.50	1.65

*No 1947-S Halves Minted during year.
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RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD COLLECTOR

By THOMAS L. ELDER

ANNALS OF THE OLDEST CATALOGUER

David Proskey a veteran numismatist and authority on antiques in general, had his shop in an upstairs room near the corner of Broadway and 14th Street, where I found him in the year 1900-1.

I was working then in the General Passenger Agent's office of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Broadway and Howard streets. I lived on West 8th Street near Fifth Avenue. I had brought some of my Indian arrowheads along with me, having mounted them on a cardboard. These comprised some three or four hundred, and I toted them to Mr. Proskey's store to sell. His offer was modest, one cent per arrow, but I needed the room so I sold them to him.

He had a quite a stock of coins, paper money and antiques in general in that room. Soon after he was robbed by "George the Ferret," a professional thief, well-known. This thief, through the cleverness of my store girls before whom he later appeared, was caught by the police in my office on 23rd street and sentenced to four years in jail. He, "the Ferret" acknowledged, my girls had

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(ALL POSTPAID)

10 Large Cents, diff. dates. Fair to Good... \$.00
20 Large Cents, diff. dates. Fair to Good... 2.50
10 Large Cents, diff. dates. Good V.G. 2.00
10 Large Cents, diff. dates. V.G. to Fine.... 2.00
50 Cents, diff. dates. Ay. Very Good.... 1.00
4 Half Dimes, diff. dates. Good or better... 1.00
Large Cent, Half Cent, Two Cent Piece and Three Cent Piece. All..... 1.00
3 Eagle Cents, 1857, 1858 LL. and 1858 S.L. Good or better. All..... 1.00
2 Different Continental Notes..... 1.00
\$1 Gold, Fine or better..... 5.00
10 White Indian Cents. Fair to Good.... 1.00
10 White Indian Cents. V.G. or better.... 1.50
500 Fractional Currency, Fine..... 1.00
Surprise Packet, U. S. Coins, Tokens, and Paper Money..... 1.00
20c Piece, Very Good..... 2.50
1803 Large Cent. Good..... 1.50
1805 Large Cent. Good..... 1.25
1807 Large Cent. Good..... 1.00
1810 and 1812 Large Cents. Fair. Both..... 1.00
1813 Large Cent. Good..... 1.25
1814 Large Cent. Fair .50c; Good to V.G.... 1.00
1821 Large Cent. Fair .50c; Good..... 2.00
1828 Large Cent, small date, rare. V.G.... 2.50
1839, 62 and 63 White Cents. All..... .50
1844-J. Indian Cent. Fair..... 1.00
1860 Indian Cent. Abt. Fine..... .50
1866 Indian Cent. Fine..... 3.00
1867 Indian Cent. Good..... 1.25
1868 Indian Cent. V. Fair .75c; Good \$1; V.G.... 1.50
1869 Indian Cent. Good to V.G..... 1.00
1870 Indian Cent; poor; good date..... .50
1871 and 1872 Indian Cents. Good. Each..... 2.50
1873 Indian Cent. Very Good..... .75
1874 Indian Cent. Fine \$1.25; V. Fine..... 2.00
1875 Indian Cent. Ex. Fine..... 2.50
1876 Indian Cent. Very Fine..... 1.00
1885 Indian Cent. Very Good..... .50
5 Diff. Unc. Lincoln Cents before 1930. Lot..... 1.00
3 Diff. Unc. Indian Cents. Lot..... 1.00
1871 3c Nickel. Unc. 3.00
1886 Shield Nickel. Very Fine..... 3.00
1883 L.H. Nickel. no cents. Unc..... .50
1899 L.H. Nickel. Very Fine..... 1.00
1900 L.H. Nickel. Br. Unc..... 1.50
1905 L.H. Nickel. Br. Unc..... 1.50
1910 L.H. Nickel. frosty Unc..... 1.50
1911 and 1912 L.H. Nickels. Fine. Both..... .50
1912D L.H. Nickel. V.G. to Fine..... .75
3 Diff. Liberty Seated Dimes. Lot..... 1.00

Remittance With Order.

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E. L. RAMSAY

882 E. Market St., York, Pa.

surely was one of the most important collectors and dealers in our midst and one of the best posted.

Bauman L. Belden was at this time secretary of the Numismatic Society in New York and active and interested in coins and medals. He wrote a work on the Indian medals, published by the Society. Another man of interest was William Poillon, Sr. He had, in old days, been curator of the Society's collections, and collected Masonic tokens and medals. I disposed of his remaining holdings at his death in 1916. He was a very friendly and interesting man, who died at about 75 years of age. He had been for many years a member of the Society if he was not one of its earliest members. It had been founded in 1858.

About this time came along Fred C. Boyd greatly interested in coin and in club and society affairs. He is well versed in coins and possesses one of the finest collections in our midst. He is a good example to prove that collecting helps to keep people young. He first made his appearance in my sales room on East 23rd, about the year 1907 — a very popular man. — One of the characters of that day was a Swedish-American collector named Julius De Lagerberg, who had all the pompous manner of an old world diplomat and scholar. Medals was his forte. He had many of them and nobody was more interested in them than he. He was a great talker and entertained us often when he called to discuss coin and medal affairs and collectors in general. He had had a brother of prominence in coins in Sweden. Mr. De Lagerberg lived at Passaic, N. J. He has been dead almost 20 years. He was a friendly and likeable man.

Proskey was not considered a cheap-priced dealer as a rule, but when he had accumulated a stock of one kind of coin or note he usually sold for a moderate price. He charged me \$3 a sheet for these Rhode Island notes, a reasonable price. He was a great authority on the rarity of coins, and also very fond of the political tokens and medals of 60 or 75 years ago and I sold for him his great McCoy collection in 1918, the largest collection ever offered for sale at least in recent years.

Mr. Proskey and I had some misunderstandings, but after he moved to 6th Avenue, we became good friends and got along very well thereafter. He attended my dinners and was later an active member of the New York Numismatic Club, which came into existence in 1907. Mr. Proskey gave evidence that the elder Frossard was not popular with him, though I never learned the reasons why. From 39th Street Mr. Proskey moved his store to Sixth Avenue up about 51st Street where he had large quarters and his stock presented a most interesting appearance. He did not live long after he later moved out to his home in New Jersey near Paterson where he had a special building built to hold his treasures and curios. Whether these were subsequently sold or not I do not know. His son has, I believe, directed the disposal of his estate, which must have been important. I think Mr. Proskey was about 72 years of age at his death, and he

Chinatown was a favorite haunt for many coin collectors including men like A. R. Frey. I understand Higgins was the very first man to suggest to Chinatown that it can some of its delicacies and chop-suey, which has become so popular today.



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Gold \$5.00 at \$14.00

Gold \$2.50 at \$7.00

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4. FRANCE, Silver 2 Francs, same as above, all VF or better, Cat. 75c each. SPECIAL, 3 for \$1.00.
5. FRANCE, Silver 20 Francs, 1929-38, Cat. \$2.50, All Fine. Only 75c.
6. PRUSSIA, Silver 5 Marks, (dollar size) Various rulers, Cat. \$2.50 each, all Fine or better. Only 90c each, or 3 different types for \$2.50.
7. PRUSSIA, Silver 3 Marks, Various rulers, some quite old. All fine or better. Cat. \$1.25 upwards per coin. 3 Different dates. Only \$1.75.
8. GERMANY, Silver 2 Marks, 1937-1939, Head of Hindenburg, RX. Eagle on Swastika. All VF or better. Cat. \$1.35 ea., 35c ea., or 3 for \$1.
9. GERMANY, Imperial Silver Marks, All dated between 1875 and 1916. All Fine to Ex. Fine. Cat. a minimum of 50c. 7 Different dates for only \$1.00 per coin.
10. GREAT BRITAIN, The scarce and now obsolete, silver 3 pence coin. All Fine or better. 3 Different rulers. Only 50c.
11. GREAT BRITAIN, Silver Six Pence, 4 Different types, Only 50c. All Fine or better.
12. GREAT BRITAIN, Silver Florins (2 shilling pieces) All Fine or better. 3 different rulers, Only \$1.25.
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April, 1948

HOBBIES—The Magazine for Collectors

New Wooden Nickel

The annual Redland Festival of the Everglades held February 22-28 was marked by the coinage of wooden nickels, which were available at the First National Bank of Homestead, Fla., in denominations of one, two, and five nickels. The wooden nickel bears a design representative of the State of Florida, a palm tree. Other designs include the buffalo and the Indian.

Coins, Paper Money, etc.

1803 U. S. Half Cents, V.G.	\$2.50
1804 Cross cut Stems, Fine	1.25
1809-1835 Half Cent, Fine, Each	1.50
1828 One Half and Two Cents, Stars, V.G.	1.25
1833-1834 Same, V.F. Each	1.50
1849-1850 Same, Fine, rare, Each	1.75
1853-1854, V. F. Each	1.75
Ancient Roman dinarius, Trojan, V. F.	1.25
Same Hadrian, etc. V. F. Each	1.25
English Copper, Geo. I & II; ¼ D. About Unc.	1.00
Same Gen. I, II, ½ D. Ex. Fine, Each	1.00
Spanish Piece of Eight, Real, V. F. Each	1.75
Continental Notes, 1776-9, V. F. Each	1.75
Colonial Notes, 5 different, Good, Lot	2.25
C. S. A. \$500 Note, 1824, Ex. F.	3.25
U. S. 25c Notes, V. F. 3 different for	2.50
U. S. 50c Notes Perfect; 3 different for	4.50
3 D. old medieval silver, V. G. Lot	1.25
Edw. I, Henry III, 1 penny, Fine, Each	.60
Maudy Silver, Chas. II, 2 Var., Fine	.75
Geo. III, IV, Maudy Silver, Perfect, Each	.75
American Colonial Coins, Good, Each	.75
Very Fine Roman Bronze Coins	.75

INDIAN HEAD CENTS

1837 Flying Eagle, Good	.50
1832 Very Fine	1.00
1863 Good 25c, Unc.	.75
1864 Good	.75
1867 Good	1.50
1871 Good	2.00
1873 Good	.75
1875 Poor 60c; Good	1.25
1878 Poor 60c; Good-Fine	2.00
1879 Very Good	1.00
1880 Uncirculated	2.25
1881 Uncirculated, Beautiful	2.75
1882 Uncirculated	2.00
1883 Proof	3.00
1885 Good \$1.00; Very Good	.50
1886 Proof	3.00
1888 Br. Uncirculated	2.00
1889 Br. Uncirculated	2.00
1900 Unc. Br. Red	1.50
1903 Proof \$3.00; Br. Red	1.75
1905 Uncirculated	1.00
1906 Br. Proof	3.00
1907 Uncirculated	2.00
1908 Uncirculated \$2.00; Br. Proof	3.25
1908-S Good	2.00
1909 Uncirculated	2.00

ANCIENT OBJECTS

Egyptian amulet B.C. Fine \$1.50; same good luck amulet stone	2.25
ANCIENT BEADS: Egypt, sm. round, per 100	1.25
Egypt, beads, round, tubular, per 100	2.00
Largo amber bead, B.C. \$30.00	.40
Roman Carnelian bead, large	.50
Some Roman Carnelian, 3 for	.65
Ptolemaic or Roman pottery beads, each	.10
Greek bronze arrowhead, V.F.	3.00
Egypt, Fine Saw, B.C. \$500	3.00
B.C. 2000. Very Fine Babylonian Inscribed spike	1.50
Roman bronze holder for jar	3.50
Persian faience bracelet	3.00
Babylonian B.C. 1800 bead necklace, hermatite 15.00	15.00
Same, black stone pendant, each	2.00
Egyptian bronze finger ring	3.00
Roman bronze buckle	3.00
V.F. Roman Lamp, A.D. 100, Each	5.00
Egypt B.C. 1650, V.F., God Ptah	3.50
Roman Tor. Plin, each	.00
NEWSPAPERS: V.F., Colonial, Amer. Rev., Civil War, Nap. 1st War, French and Indian War Book: J. W. Scott's Copper & Nickel Coins (reprint), 200 pages, U. S. Colonial, Foreign and Ancient; thousand illustrations and priced \$2.00. Rare Colonial Notes: V. F. or Unc. Del. R. I. Md., \$1.25 each.	1.00
Rare Continental Notes, V.F. to Unc. \$1.25 each. Confederate Vouchers, 75c, Each	2.50
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T. M. ELDER
Algood, Tennessee

April, 1948

HOBBIES—The Magazine for Collectors

Briefs

GOLD

BY THOMAS HOOD

Gold! Gold! Gold!
Bright and yellow, hard and cold,
Molten, graven, hammered, and rolled;
Heaved to get, and light to hold;
Hoarded, bartered, bought and sold,
Stolen, borrowed, squandered, doled;
Spurned by the young, but hugged by
the old
To the very verge of the churchyard
mould;
Price of many a crime untold;
Gold! Gold! Gold!
Good or bad, a thousand-fold!

How widely its agencies vary!
To save, to ruin, to curse, to bless,
As even its minted coins express!
Now stamped with the image of Good
Queen Bess,
And now of a Bloody Mary!

Flying Disks.

An Exchange says:
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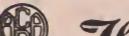
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my3063

Collectiana

Referring to numismatists, Mr. Joseph Schmand of the H. A. N. A. of Kansas City, poetizes thusly:—

They call us "nuts", but why, nobody knows.

There are hazel nuts, and walnuts, and nuts called "nigger toes," But I don't think it's right, by gosh, to call US one of those.

oOo

Tribute Money

The Bible has no monopoly on the story of tribute money. Early Madagascar rulers collected their tribute money under the guise of loyalty tests. But a tax is a tax no matter how "sweetened" it is. Mr. A. Quinnell (New Zealand), speaking of early Madagascar, says that part of the Coronation Ceremony consisted of the tribes, State officials, foreigners, missionaries, etc., presenting a Spanish dollar as their "Hazina" (present) token of loyalty and submission to the new sovereign; this also applied too, when a stranger was granted an audience with the monarch.

oOo

Gold Increases in the Philippines

Whether the Philippine mint is being operated at this time I am uncertain, but there is activity in the gold mines of the Islands. The Benquet-Balatoe mine is going at full blast. The gold mined there is being sold at above the regular \$35 an ounce. Some of the gold is being sold at Manila for more than \$45 an ounce.

The Chinese market for gold is active at \$60 per ounce. Some of the Canadian dealers in gold are offering a \$7 bonus at \$42 per ounce and seem to be quite active.

From the above accounts it would seem that gold is commencing to react to the present inflationary trend. However, gold at \$35 per ounce, the fixed price, seems altogether too low in view of present price trends in commodities.

oOo

Publicize With Coins

New Orleans claims a famous FIRST. The New Orleans Public Service Incorporated, in its pamphlet RIDERS' DIGEST, says:— The term "two-bits," meaning a quarter of a dollar, originated in New Orleans when Mexican silver dollars were accepted in trade. By cutting the dollar into halves and quarters one made change. When a quarter of a dollar was cut in half it created two "bits" — each bit being worth twelve and half cents.

oOo

UNITED STATES LARGE COPPER CENTS

See last month's Hobbies (March issue) for offerings in small cents of all dates. The older larger cents offered below are guaranteed to be in condition as stated, or money cheerfully refunded. Prices are prepaid and insured. Send remittance with order.

1793 cent, Wreath type, vine and bars on edge, good, \$25; another, good but tooled, \$15.	1807 good \$2; 1808 v. good \$5.
1795 plain edge, v. good, light brown \$6.	1810 over '09 good \$3.50; 1811 good \$5.50.
1796 Liberty Cap, obverse and date good, reverse poor \$2.50.	1812 large and small dates, v. good, both \$4.
1796 draped bust, fine \$15.	1813 v. good \$4; 1814 fine \$3.50, v. good \$2.
1797 with stems, v. good \$5, good \$3.50.	1817 fifteen stars, very fine \$7.50.
1797 stemless wreath, fine, v. rare \$25.	1818 uncirculated, orange red gem \$5.
1798 not in Doughty, Clapp 35 (comb. 27c-Yd) v. fine \$10.	1821 wide date, fine \$8 (cat. \$12.50), very good \$4.
1798 several varieties, good, each \$2.	1823 over '22, fine, rare \$10 (cat. \$15), good \$5.
1800 over 179 and perf. date, good, both \$4.	1824 over '22, v. fine, light olive \$8.50.
1801 fraction 1/000 error, fine \$10.	1825-27-30 fine, each \$2.
1801 good \$3; 1802 v. g. \$2, good \$1; stemless wreath, good \$2.50.	1827-31-37-38 good, each 50c.
1803 fine \$2.50; good \$1.	1845-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54 gd., ea. 30c
1804 perfect dies, very fine, (v. rare) \$125.	1851-52 ex. fine, choice, each \$1.25.
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